



IoWoman

A Publication of the Friends of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women • Vol. XXXVII, No. 4, July/August

ICSW Priorities Met

All of the six ICSW legislative priorities were fully or partially met by the General Assembly:

Child Care

- **State investments in Head Start, Early Head Start and other early childhood programs that emphasize school-readiness.**

HF877 was signed by the Governor on May 10th creating a statewide voluntary preschool program for four-year-old children and appropriations of \$15 million for FY2009 and FY2010 and \$16,162,500 for FY2011.

Economics

- **An increase in the minimum wage.**
HF1 was signed on January 25th and the first raise began on April 1st at \$6.20 per hour. The raise to \$7.25 per hour begins January 1, 2008.
- **Legislative proposals addressing predatory lending, including predatory home mortgage lending, payday loans, tax refund anticipation loans and car title loans.**
HF5 was signed on March 27th restricting the car title loans to 21% finance charge. SF137 was signed on April 17th that requires registration of real estate appraisers.
But SF541, which would take predatory lending to even greater restrictions, got stalled in the House after passing the Senate.

—continued on page 2

Iowa Women's Hall of Fame

You are cordially invited to attend, free of charge, the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Ceremony *at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, August 25, 2007*, to celebrate the induction of four outstanding women. The ceremony will take place at the Iowa State Historical Building, 600 East Locust, Des Moines.

Induction into the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame is one of the highest honors bestowed upon an Iowa woman by the State of Iowa. Ruth Ann Gaines, Des Moines; Dr. Ada Hayden (deceased), Ames; Emma J. Harvat (deceased), Iowa City; and Connie Horton Wimer will be honored for their significant contributions to society.

Ruth Ann Gaines is an educator and artist. Dr. Ada Hayden was the first woman to receive a Ph.D. from Iowa State University and prairie preservationist. Emma J. Harvat was the first woman in the nation to be elected mayor of a city larger than 10,000. Connie Horton Wimer is a business woman and philanthropist. (More complete biographical sketches and photographs will appear in the September/October issue of the *IoWoman*.)

The Cristine Wilson Medal for Equality and Justice will also be presented during the Hall of Fame ceremony. This award is given to a distinguished Iowan who has dedicated her/his life to promoting equality and justice. Marilyn O. Murphy of Sioux City will receive this honor. Murphy has been a longtime advocate of women and social justice issues.

Following the induction ceremony, a reception will be held for attendees and family and friends of the award recipients from 11:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

At 12:30 p.m., the *Friends of the ICSW Fundraising Luncheon* will take place at Hotel Fort Des Moines, 1000 Walnut Street, Des Moines. The featured presenter will be Jane Cox portraying Carrie Chapman Catt.

Cost of the Friends' fundraising luncheon is \$30 per person and \$240 per table of 8. **Send checks for the luncheon by Friday, August 17** to Friends of ICSW, Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines, Iowa 50319. See page two for a luncheon reservation card.

The event is held in conjunction with Women's Equality Day, August 26, which commemorates the day in 1920 when American women first obtained the right to vote.

Iowa Women's Hall of Fame 2007 Inductees



Ruth Ann Gaines
Emma J. Harvat
Dr. Ada Hayden
Connie Horton Wimer

Cristine Wilson Medal for Equality and Justice Recipient



Marilyn O. Murphy

Share Your Story

It's time the voices of Domestic Violence are heard. The Iowa Coalition Against Domestic Violence (ICADV) is partnering with novelist Kate Iola to tell the stories of 31 women in the month of October, Domestic Violence Awareness Month.

These stories, and hopefully the survivor's portraits, will run in newspapers across the state and will later be pulled together in a book. Iola is a survivor herself and is donating her time and talents to this project.

ICADV is looking for Iowa women who are survivors of domestic violence to participate in the Iowa Voices Project. The women selected will represent a diverse cross section of age, experience, ethnicity, location, economic status and education.

If you would like to tell your story please contact Sarabeth Anderson at ICADV, 515/244-8028 or sarabetha@icadv.org.

To learn more about Kate Iola, visit www.agoutlook.com/dv/dv.htm and www.kateiola.com/default.asp.

Girls' Summit

The Iowa Gender Specific Services Task Force will host a Girls' Summit on October 12th in Urbandale, Iowa.

Invited participants will examine the circumstances surrounding and contributing to young women's involvement in the juvenile justice system as well as how these circumstances lead them to the adult corrections system.

Participants will look at state-wide data and institutional data as well as hear from a national expert and young women in the juvenile justice and adult systems themselves.

The group will take this information and their own expertise and work on recommendations for improved responses to these young women once they are involved in the system as well as earlier interventions that may prevent this involvement.

The Girls' Summit will result in a report detailing the status of young women in the juvenile justice system in Iowa. The report will be made public in 2008.

--continued from page 1

Equality

- **Amending the Iowa Civil Rights Act to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity.**

SF427 was signed on May 25th. Iowa became the 19th state in the nation to expand civil rights protections to include the LGBT community. The bill signing was held at Principal Financial in Des Moines, which has been granting its employees protection and was a leading advocate for this bill during the 2007 legislative session.

Health

- **Focusing on health care reform until health care coverage is accessible and affordable for all Iowans.**

The Affordable Health Care Commission was established as part of HF909 with an appropriation of \$500,000 to cover costs. The Commission will review, analyze, and make recommendations on issues by December 2007.

Violence Against Women

- **Increased funding for domestic violence and sexual assault programs in the state budget.** Victim Assistance Grants were increased from \$5,000 to \$150,000, but still fall short of the need.

The full legislative report can be found on our website at www.state.ia.us/government/dhr/sw/legislation/index.html.

Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Fundraising Luncheon Reservation

___ I/We accept your invitation to the Iowa Women's Hall of Fame celebration luncheon

\$30 per adult	# _____	\$ _____
\$240 for a table for eight	# _____	\$ _____
Number of Vegetarian Selections	_____	

Table sign to read: _____

Hold tickets in the name of: _____

Daytime telephone: _____ Email address: _____

___ I/We regret not being able to attend this special event but have enclosed a donation to show our support for the Friends of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women.

___ Check enclosed for \$ _____

*Make checks payable to Friends of ICSW and mail by Friday, August 17 to
Lucas State Office Building, Des Moines IA 50319*

Women's eNews

Women's eNews is a free source of substantive news covering issues of particular concern to women and providing women's perspectives on public policy.

Go to www.womensenews.org/subscribe.cfm to subscribe.

Calendar of Events

July

- 4 Independence Day.** Office closed.
- 7 Brake the Cycle of Violence Twin Lakes Bike Ride** 7 a.m., Twin Lakes State Park, Calhoun County. Fee varies. Fort Dodge Domestic/Sexual Assault Outreach Center, 515/955-2273 or visit www.bikeiowa.com for more information.
- 14 Pathways to Prosperity: Women and Girl's Empowerment Seminar.** 9 a.m. - 4 p.m., Embassy Suites, Des Moines. \$10 for adults. Speaker: Valorie Burton, life coach. Preregistration required. ISED Ventures, 515/283-0940.
- 17 Friends of Iowa Women Prisoners.** 12 noon. Wesley United Methodist Church, Des Moines. Bring your own lunch. 515/283-1911
- 19 Planned Parenthood of Greater Iowa's Annual Luncheon.** 11:30 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., Hotel Fort Des Moines, Des Moines. \$50. Speaker: Helen Thomas, former White House Bureau Chief and "The First Lady of the Press." Planned Parenthood of Greater Iowa, 515/235-0406 or SMcKiness@ppgi.org.
- 27 Iowa Human Needs Advocates.** 9 a.m., State Capitol, Des Moines. 515/974-8908.

August

- 2-3 Governor's Conference on Public Health: Barn Raising VI: Celebrating Healthy Communities.** Drake University, Des Moines. Fee varies. Dr. Louise Lex, Iowa Department of Public Health, 515 281-4348 or visit www.idph.state.ia.us/bhpl/barn_raising.asp for more information.
- 3 Iowa Gender-Specific Services Task Force.** 10 a.m.-12 noon, Urbandale Public Library, Urbandale. Kathy Nesteby, ICSW, 515/281-6915, 800/558-4427, or kathy.nesteby@iowa.gov.

- 9 Road To Freedom Tour: Keeping the Promise of the Americans with Disabilities Act.** Des Moines. Central Iowa Center for Independent Living, 515/243-1742.
- 9-19 Iowa State Fair.** Des Moines. www.iowastatefair.com
- 25 Iowa Women's Hall of Fame Ceremony.** 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m., State Historical Building, Des Moines. Free and open to the public. ICSW, 515/281-4461, 800/558-4427, or dhr.icsw@iowa.gov.
- 25 Friends of ICSW Fundraising Luncheon.** 12:30-2 p.m., Hotel Fort Des Moines, Des Moines. \$30. Friends of ICSW, 515/281-4461, 800/558-4427, or dhr.icsw@iowa.gov.
- 25 Iowa Commission on the Status of Women Business Meeting.** 2:30-3:30 p.m., Hotel Fort Des Moines, Des Moines. Free and open to the public. Call or write for special accommodations, 800/558-4427, 515/281-4461 or dhr.icsw@iowa.gov.

Upcoming

- September 8-9 Latino Heritage Festival.** Des Moines. www.latinoheritagefestival.org
- September 10-11 Iowa CareGivers Association 2007 Annual Conference.** West Des Moines. www.iowacaregivers.org
- September 18-20 FutureNet/Family Planning Update Joint Conference.** Ames. www.iowafuturenet.org/events.html
- September 27 Chrysalis Insights Luncheon.** Des Moines. www.chrysalisfdn.org.
- October 9 Iowa Women's Foundation Annual Luncheon.** Iowa City. www.iawf.org.
- October 15-16 Iowa's Mosaic Diversity Conference.** Des Moines. www.iowamosaic.org.

Iowa Commission on the Status of Women (ICSW) FY 2007-2008 Meeting Dates

August 25, 2007
***October 9, 2007**
 December 11, 2007
 January 22, 2008
 March 25, 2008
 May 13, 2008

* October 9 is the ICSW Public Hearing, which will tentatively be held at the Urbandale Public Library. People and organizations with an interest in issues of concern to women/girls in Iowa are encouraged to present written or oral testimony for/at the hearing. Testimony will assist the ICSW in developing the 2008 Proposals to the Governor and General Assembly. Contact the ICSW at 515/281-4461, 800/558-4427 or lori.schraderbachar@iowa.gov to find out how you can testify.

Bits and Pieces

ICSW commissioner Carla Espinoza and staff Lori SchraderBachar are attending the "Major Issues. Special Exhibits. Exceptional Women." National Association of Commissions for Women 37th annual convention in Louisville on July 11-14. Friends of ICSW is paying registration and travel expenses. For more information about NACW, go to www.nacw.org.

Whirlpool announces the **2007 Mother of Invention Grants**, which are awarded to entrepreneurial mothers who have great product innovations, invention, service or business ideas. The award involves three prize categories to provide seed money, business resources, and expert advice for five lucky winners. The winners will also be invited to a business boot camp to receive assistance on product development, business strategy, and innovation. Details about

the grant can be found at www.whirlpool.com/custserv/promo.jsp?sectionId=697. Applications must be postmarked by July 30, 2007.

The **Farm Service Agency** is looking for persons interested in serving on the local County Committee in every Iowa County. By being elected, you become part of local decision making that helps deliver many FSA programs. To be eligible, you must be of legal voting age, live in the area that is holding the election and participate or cooperate in a program administered by FSA. Contact your local office for more information; nominations must be submitted or postmarked by August 1, 2007.

The Friends of Iowa Civil Rights, Inc. is currently accepting applications for its Annual **Friends of Iowa Civil Rights Award**. Awards will be given to

individuals or organizations who have made a significant contribution in promoting civil rights in Iowa during the past one to two years in each of the following categories: individual, business, non-profit/community organization, and youth/young adult. The deadline for nominations is August 23, 2007. For more information, or a nomination form, contact Dawn Peterson at 515/281-8086 or dawn.peteron@iowa.gov.

Interested in interning at the ICSW? We welcome college students and recent graduates any time during the year. Contact us at dhr.icsw@iowa.gov, 515/281-4461 or 800/558-4427.

Congratulations to **Sally Mason**, who will become the University of Iowa's 20th president on August 1, 2007.

Help save printing/postage costs!
If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please write or call the ICSW office. You may also send your e-mail address. Thank you!

Friends of the Iowa Commission on the Status of Women
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www.friendsoficsw.org

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Enclosure of items in the newsletter does not necessarily connote endorsement by the Friends of the ICSW or by the ICSW. All information must be mailed or faxed to the ICSW no later than the 15th day of all even numbered months. The use of any submitted material is at the discretion of the editor. The *Iowa Woman* is mailed six times per year to 8,400 persons or organizations.

Julie Graden, President ● Lori M. SchraderBachar, ICSW Interim Executive Director ● Lori M. SchraderBachar, Editor

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